

June 2005

4th Landing Support Battalion Family Newsletter

www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thfssg/4thlsb/



MCCS OneSource Online

Your regional contractor is



1-888-874-9378

NEWS FROM H&S COMPANY IN AL ASAD IRAQ

Summer is here and the weather has been blistering hot! Alongside other Marines from Transportation Company, Heavy Equipment platoon continues to push forward through the desert sand, sand storms, and harsh conditions. Regardless of the climate and place, Marines have always been able to adapt and overcome any situation, and will continue to do so. Though the journey may become difficult at times, we continue to persevere and in return gain valuable life experiences.

We would like to congratulate LCpl Atkins, LCpl Green, LCpl Luporini, LCpl Madsen, Cpl Goatz, and Cpl Kim for achieving grey belt status, after completing all requirements in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. It requires a tremendous amount of strength, skill, and discipline to master the techniques set in the grey belt course. Also, congratulations to Cpl Goatz and LCpl Hwang who are now certified "Combat Lifesavers" after going through the necessary classes (CPR, IV, etc..) and final testing.

Basketball fever has hit Al Asad, as the NBA playoffs continue. Currently Cpl Jandl and his team of Marines have entered into the basketball tournament held on base. Playing the position forward/center, Jandl is the core component of the team. "Basketball gives Marines some time to temporarily forget where they are and allows them to just have some fun." says Jandl. As the tournament goes on, Jandl's team is doing very well and we will continue to wish him much success.

In closing, to every one of our great fathers, we would like to take this time to thank you for all you have done for us through the years. Your constant guidance, strength, and perseverance are a daily inspiration in our lives. May you truly have the deserved recognition on your day, Father's Day. Thank you for your continued support and please continue to send those letters!



Sand Storm Al ASad, Iraq
SCAM INFORMATION

Two men posing as a Marine and a Sailor tried to gain personal checking account information from the spouse of an activated Marine Reservist. The attempted scam occurred as follows:

A man claiming that he was a Marine Master Sergeant called the spouse. He informed her that her husband was missing in action and that someone would visit her home to provide further information. Two men, one dressed in Marine dress blues and the other in a Navy uniform, visited the spouse at her home. Neither of the men would properly identify themselves. They informed her that her husband was missing in action and that they would need her checking account number in case he was determined to have been killed in action. The alleged perpetrators had somehow obtained personal information on the Marine to include his name, rank, address, telephone number and social security number.

This is a great example of why it is so important for everyone to adhere to the Privacy Act of 1974. Do not provide personal information of service members to anyone without their consent. Also, personal information should never be placed in publicly accessible media and documents, i.e., newsletters, emails, websites.

Please stress to all family members that during a legitimate casualty visit, family members would never be asked to provide personal financial information.

If service members or family members have any questions concerning the process or legitimacy of a casualty visit, they can contact the Marine Forces Reserve Casualty Officer, Capt Jason Burkett, at 504-687-0428 (office) or 504-296-2246 (cell) or **SgtMaj Humphries at Ft Lewis, 253-967-2869 or 253-961-8872**. If anyone thinks that they are the victim of an attempted scam, please contact the unit Family Readiness Officer or Reserve Training Center site support staff **253-988-1071** and local law enforcement officials.

UPCOMING DRILL SCHEDULE 2004/2005

NOVEMBER 6 DECEMBER 3-5 JANUARY 8-9 FEBRUARY 12-13 MARCH 5-6
APRIL 2-3 MAY 12-15 **JUNE AT's** JULY 8-10 AUGUST 6-7 SEPTEMBER 10-1

RETURN AND REUNION INFORMATION

INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES:

RETURN AND REUNION WORKSHOP FOR SPOUSES AND FAMILIES

http://www.lifelines2000.org/return/Reunion_files/frame.htm

RETURN AND REUNION GUIDE FOR FAMILIES AND MARINES

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/return/Marine%20Corps%20Return%20and%20Reunion.pdf>

RETURN AND REUNION INFORMATION FOR MARINES

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/return.asp>

Unit Telephone Numbers

4th LSB Staff Duty NCO 253-988-1071

LtCol Willis-Family Readiness Officer
253-968-7104

ron.willis@usmc.mil

SgtMajor Humphries-I-I SgtMaj/AFRO
253-967-2869

thomas.humphries@usmc.mil

Key Volunteer Coordinators

Mrs. Cindy Griffin (H&S Co) 253-630-3124

Gcinfo@aol.com

Mrs. Stacy Morgen-Demer (I-I) 253-678-5094

facemorgen@yahoo.com

Key Volunteers

Mrs. Lynn Craig (I-I) 253-847-9302

lmcnola@msn.com

Mrs. Bobbie Rickter (A Co) 360-458-8605

brickter@aol.com

Chaplain's Corner

Writing a Family Story

The other night, after dinner, our family pulled out the calendar and dived into some serious summer planning. We talked about dates for vacations and possible trips and destinations. The kids blocked out the weeks they will be at summer camp and sports camps. I chimed in with my Annual Training dates and my wife spoke up about the summer session for her masters degree program. Then there is the church mission trip to Mexico and the extended family gathering later in the summer.

Phew! Before I knew it those coveted weeks of summer, when the kids are out of school and life supposedly slows down a bit, was completely filled up and I was already beginning to feel the strain of a full schedule. Hanging the calendar back on the wall I realized that relaxing can sure be hard work sometimes.

I hope you will each find yourself getting away to the mountains or the beach this summer. As hard as it might be to carve out the time it is well worth the effort to spend time with our loved ones outside the regular routine of life. It helps us remember why we love them so much. They are fun to be around. We connect well with them. They like us!

. With two of my children out of the house and two to go we find ourselves often remembering past vacations. A game of tag on the beach ... A really tough hike over a mountain pass ... renting a motor boat and striking out to a deserted island in the middle of a lake. The kids talk about these things all the time. And I just beam inside knowing that these events are now part of the fabric of our family. We have written a story that will be told and re-told over and over again.

May you each enjoy writing your own family stories this summer.

Chaplain Steve Weber

4th LSB

sweber@mvpres.com

360-424-7675

CSSD-25 Marines Information-<http://www.cssd25kvn.org/>

MAILING ADDRESS FOR H&S MARINES DEPLOYED WITH CSSD 25

RANK / NAME
(PLATOON OF YOUR MARINE)
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
CSSD - 25
UNIT 76685
FPO AE 09509 - 6685

REMINDER

If your loved one is seriously injured you will be notified by the Family Readiness Officer (FRO) within 24 hours of the FRO receiving the information. Don't believe the so-called "prank" phone calls that something has happened to your Marine or Sailor. Report such activity to your local police department immediately.
Trust only what you hear from your Marines Command, FRO, or from your loved one.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 4-Samuel Riehm 1 year old
June 8-Calvin Case 4 years old

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.marinenet.usmc.mil/portal/course-kvn.asp - Key Volunteer Training
www.usmc-mccs.org/MCFTB/Links/ftb_links_main.asp - L.I.N.K.S.
www.defenselink.mil/ra/familyreadiness.html- Reserve Affairs
www.mothers-home.com Children's Activity Resource
www.cinchouse.com -Spouses Website
www.marinewives.com Spouses Website
www.militarychild.org -Military Child Education Coalition
www.sgtmoms.com -Military Moms
www.lifelines.navy.mil -Military News and Information
www.militarycity.com -Military News and Information
www.commissaries.com -DeCA Commissary Site
www.redcross.org -Military Family Resource Center
www.tricare.osd.mil -Tricare

Some recommendations when dealing with identity theft.

1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.
2. Regularly check your credit card activity on-line to ensure no one else is using your accounts. Review each credit card company's policies concerning identity theft.
3. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
4. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your Social Security number on your checks.
5. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, SIN, credit cards.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc. were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation. But here's what is perhaps most important of all:
3. Call the two national credit-reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Insurance number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

MARINE PROFILE

Name: Glen Woodin

Rank: Sgt

Date of Birth: June 7, 1972

Hometown: Jefferson, OH

Favorite food: Pork Steaks (Fried), Potatoes, and Greens

Favorite movie: Officer and a Gentleman

Favorite music: Country

Favorite book: Serial Killer / Robert Koesler

What I miss the most... "My wife and children."

What I am proud of... "The small adults my kids are becoming – with wife's help."

Favorite quote: "Getting yelled at only matters if you care." – Richard Steel